



DAVID SIDWELL

THE NAMING OF NAOMI PEAK

by Marian Robertson Wilson

In the Logan Canyon area, there are three craggy peaks bearing the unusual names of Mount Gog, Mount Magog, and Naomi Peak (in the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area). Although one can readily trace the terms “Gog” and “Magog” to the Bible, the origins for the name “Naomi” are not so clear. Some have suggested that the peak was named for Naomi, mother-in-law of Ruth in the Old Testament, while another source has said that a government surveyor named it for his wife.

Here is another account related from time to time by a person who claimed to have inadvertently played an important role in the naming process.

In the early 1920s the U.S. Geological

HOW DID THIS RUGGED PEAK GET ITS LADYLIKE NAME?

Survey was surveying the rugged mountain range east of Cache Valley. To help in this task, the government recruited qualified students from Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University) in Logan. As it happened, one of the student recruits was deeply enamored of the lovely coed Naomi Nelson, whose big blue eyes, soft brown hair, and winning smile charmed many a young man. She was also outgoing, fun-loving, and generally beloved. A

sponsor of the college’s ROTC, she could hold, aim, and shoot a rifle with the best.

Indeed, the young student-surveyor was so smitten with her that in an effort to secure her affections, he promised to name the highest peak in the area after her.

One may well ask what made this young woman so attractive. She came from a rather humble background of hard-working farmfolk. Born in 1900 in Milton, a small community in Morgan County, Utah, she was the youngest of a family of fifteen children. Both coddled and teased by her brothers and sisters, she grew up stubborn and adventuresome. Stories are told of how, as a young teenager ensconced in a large washtub, she lightheartedly floated

Story continued on page 2

ON THE COVER

The two arrow points and spear point on the cover are from the Mushroom Springs site on Antelope Island. Here, people

camped for centuries, processing the antelope, bighorn sheep, and bison they caught. They also made stone tools,

pottery, and projectile points like these. Each of the arrow points is only about 3/4 inches long and wide. But when

launched at high speeds from a bow or a spear-thrower called an atlatl, these tiny points could easily kill large game.

with friends down the rushing Weber River. A few years later, her family was dismayed to learn that she had taken an airplane ride over Cache Valley with a pilot-boyfriend—quite a daring feat in those pioneering days of aviation.



COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Naomi Nelson

Naomi attended Weber Normal College (now Weber State University) and at age 18 earned a degree that certified her to teach. After one year of teaching at Peterson (another small Morgan County community), she desperately wanted to continue her education at the Agricultural College in Logan, where she could live alternately at the homes of two older sisters.

Her father resisted, for in his eyes a woman's place was in the home caring for a family, not at college. After much pleading, however, he consented, but only if she promised to major in Home Economics, the sole subject he deemed useful to a young woman. She enrolled at the AC in the fall of 1920. After two years she had to suspend her studies and teach for a year at Uintah (a small community at the mouth of Weber Canyon) in order to earn enough money to return and complete her bachelor's degree.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Geological Survey was progressing, and when the team ultimately identified the highest peak in the area, the young surveyor, true to his word, proposed that it be named Naomi. His proposal was officially accepted, and thus Mount Naomi (9,980 feet) took its name and place alongside Mounts Gog and Magog.

Sadly, this honor did not win the young swain

his ladylove, for Naomi could not return his affections. She simply was not ready to commit herself to anyone and wanted to finish her college education. She did graduate in 1924 and immediately found employment at Pleasant Grove High, where, as the new home economics teacher, she met the new music teacher, Leroy Robertson. It was Leroy who, after many months of ardent courtship, finally won her hand.

They were married September 1, 1925, and about one year later I was born. Yes, the lovely Naomi was my mother, and such is the story she told through the years—sometimes reluctantly—to her children, grandchildren, and great-grand-



DAVID SIDWELL

A chipmunk on the highest point of Naomi Peak.

children. Out of respect to the young surveyor she never would reveal his name.

Leroy and Naomi became the parents of four children. Leroy, an internationally known composer, served as chair of the University of Utah's Department of Music. He died in 1971. Naomi, his ever-faithful companion, died in 1994.

Linguist and musician Dr. Marian Wilson Robertson, age 80, has taught at BYU, USU, and the U of U and played for the Utah Symphony. She worked on the *Coptic Encyclopedia* and is currently researching Coptic music, having published articles in nine countries. She wishes to thank the following for their contributions to this account: Lisa Perez of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and family members Renee Whitesides, Kaye Andersen, and Laura Tingey. State History wishes to thank David Sidwell for graciously allowing the use of his photographs of Naomi Peak.

THE UTAH COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Many Utah place names are connected with lore and legend. Today, the naming of geographic features is a bit more tightly controlled and documented than it was in Naomi's day.

After briefly disbanding the Utah Committee on Geographic Names, Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., re-established the committee on December 15, 2005. "The history and culture of Utah is reflected in its geographic names," reads the governor's proclamation. The committee acts as a liaison between the state of Utah and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (the final decider on names). Those who wish to add or change a geographic name are encouraged to take their proposal to the committee for review.

State History is responsible for the proper functioning of the committee. Susan Whetstone serves as the division's liaison and the committee's secretary. Scott Christensen, of the Board of State History, also serves on the committee, which meets on the first Thursday of February, May, August, and November.

For more information, call Susan Whetstone at 801/533-3543.

BOOKMARKS

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

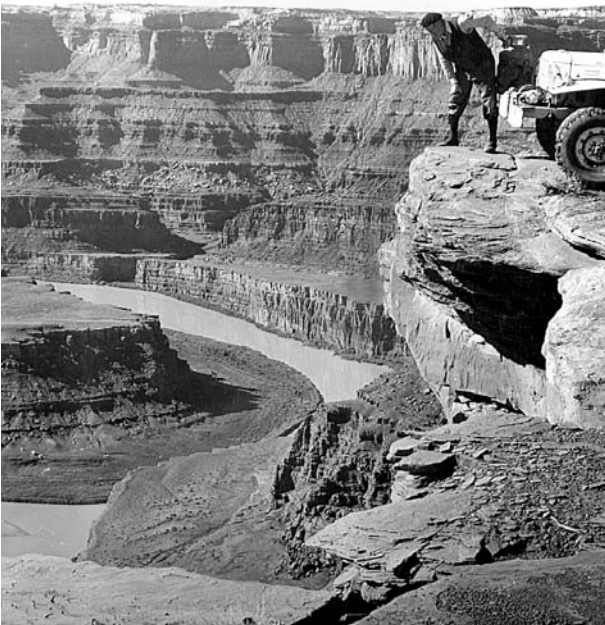
One of my favorite genres is word books—more specifically, books about the origins of words and phrases. In fact, as I write this piece I'm looking at an entire shelf of such books above my computer. For a word nerd like me there is nothing quite like wondering where ubiquitous terms such as "OK" or more curious ones like "gandy dancer" or "hoosier" come from, and then being able to look them up easily.

Similarly, I love place name books. Many states have them, including the "Beehive State." Most of you who read this column know the origin of our state nickname, but you may be clueless as to how Skutumpah Creek got its name (or where it is for that matter). How about Drunker Hollow, Lousy Jim Creek, Hey Joe Canyon, Tooele, LaVerkin, and Sooner Bench (no relation)?

Fortunately, we have *Utah Place Names: A Comprehensive Guide to the Origins of Geographic Names, A Compilation* by John W. Van Cott, published in 1990 by the University of Utah Press to help solve these and other riddles of Utah place names, from the well-known to the obscure. It is pure joy to peruse the pages of this 453-page book—and you don't have to be a word nerd. Even someone with a modicum of interest in the history or geography of our fair state will get a kick out of this book, and learn a lot at the same time.

Of course, the first names you'll look up are those you have a connection with, like where you have traveled or where your ancestors lived. I looked up Shunesberg, "three miles up the East Fork of the Virgin River, at the base of the old Wiggle Trail" in Washington County, where some of my mother's people lived for a time (it's now a ghost town on private property). It was named after a local Indian headman named Shunes.

By the way, the name of the nearby town, LaVerkin, "is a corruption of the Spanish La Virgin, referring to the Virgin



River." This is the kind of detail, necessarily brief, but informative, that fills this wonderful book. Van Cott, having spent much of his life searching countless sources, from published books, articles, and maps to oral family and local traditions, has gathered these and created the most extensive compilation of Utah place names ever published. He tells us what the toponyms (place names) are, their origins (if known), what they mean, their history and importance, previous names, nicknames, and even whether these places exist today, where they're located, and much more. All are cross-referenced and tied to a bibliography of more than 500 entries.

Read this book and you'll be in "hog heaven"—and, for your information, there are ten Utah place names with "hog" in the title.

Curt Bench, Benchmark Books, SLC

Photo: Utah Place Names says that Dead Horse Point, in Grand County, was named when in 1894 Arthur Taylor was running cows up near this point. He came across a large pothole in the sandstone, full of water but completely inaccessible to livestock. Nearby lay several dead horses, which had died of thirst within sight and smell of plenty of water.

Connecting with the Past through STRANGE HOBBIES

by Tyra Pate

State History, in its digs at the Rio Grande Depot in Salt Lake City, is one of those places that few families visit. That really is too bad. State History may not have Lagoon's rollercoasters or the zoo's lions, but it does have history. The past really can be interesting, if we give it a chance.

Fortunately, in the last 20 years State History—and campuses and museums across the state—have been holding "Prehistory Week." The general public shows up to enjoy hands-on demonstrations and the arts and crafts that reflect life in Utah before Euro-Americans showed up.

At last year's Prehistory Open House at the Rio Grande Depot, visitors got to watch baskets and arrowheads being made. They got their hands into some clay and made their own pots, scratched their own "rock art," strung beads, ground corn, threw atlatls, and made their own yarn out of wool.

Visitors may have noticed that three of the demonstrators had the same last name. The Pate family brought their skills in basketry, spinning, and flint-knapping. My husband and I were joined by a daughter, Sonia (Pate) Evans, her two-year-old son (who very solemnly supervised corn grinding), daughter-in-law Amanda Pate, and granddaughter Lauren Pate.

Why would so many members of one family be in so involved in Prehistory Week? Are we all just really strange?

It probably goes back to when Sonia and her sister Serena were little and they would go out in the backyard to dig for old bottles and broken crockery. This sparked Sonia's interest in archaeology. She eventually graduated from Utah State University with a degree in anthropology, and she worked full-time at State History until the birth of her son.

While she was still at USU she encouraged her dad to demonstrate at a Prehistory Week event held on



Above: Tyra Pate teaches spinning to enthusiastic learners at State History's Prehistory Open House.

Below: August Evans, the Pates' grandson, in badger head-dress.

Bottom: Larry Pate teaches flint-knapping at the open house.



Horseshoe Castle, Horseshoe National Monument, Photograph by George Frenkel

UTAH PREHISTORY WEEK @ MAY 5TH - 12TH, 2007

May 5–12 is **Utah Prehistory Week**. Look for events around the state at history.utah.gov. In Salt Lake City, be sure to attend the Prehistory Open House at the Rio Grande Depot (300 S. Rio Grande Street) on May 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Enjoy activities, food, displays, and demonstrations. The beautiful poster above (in full color) will be available to take home—free.

the campus. Larry had begun making arrowheads some time before, using chunks of obsidian and a 16-penny nail. He brought his gear to help visitors make their own arrowheads. Fortunately, his gear included a full box of bandages; obsidian is sharp. Over the years, he has spent a great deal of time studying techniques and materials and talking with other flint-knappers. He feels that he is still perfecting his skill and has begun to use flint, ordinary glass,



and other types of stone.

A couple of years later, daughter-in-law Cassie Pate took up basketry, using traditional methods and, sometimes, traditional materials. She taught her brother-in-law Aaron how to do it, and he has gone from making some rather sad-looking creations to making some really beautiful and spectacular baskets, as good as Cassie's. He has experimented with raffia, dogbane, milkweed, and pine needles. Now Aaron and his wife Amanda have begun to show their skills at Prehistory Week.

I took up spinning wool in the 1970s, when my husband's aunt mentioned that she had a sack full of wool from her sheep to take to Utah Wool Marketers. I was interested in basic crafts and "lost arts," especially those that involve cloth and fiber, so I quite foolishly asked the aunt if I could buy the wool sack, not realizing that a full sack is about seven feet long and three feet wide and can hold up to seven or eight fleeces. I was stuck. Armed with a crude home-made spindle and whorl, I set to work. After some pretty bad starts, I managed to spin enough wool to knit a sweater for my husband.

The first sweater was educational in two ways. I discovered that unless wool is "plied," thus taking the spin, or tension, off the thread, any knitted garment will tend to lean off to one side, as if it were drunk. Also, I discovered that washing a man's woolen sweater gets it nice and clean, and turns it very quickly into a child's woolen sweater. A drunken one.

When people find out that our family has such strange hobbies, they tend to look at us a little oddly—until they find out that the family comes as a group to the Prehistory Open House to demonstrate our hobbies in an educational setting. It tends to make those bizarre hobbies look a little more respectable. Maybe that's why the Pate family enjoys Prehistory Week so much. If you come to the Open House this year you can see the Pates, as well as a lot of other people with unusual hobbies, and maybe take up a new hobby yourself.

STATE HISTORY

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

By statute, State History is the state's authority for Utah history and archaeology. We have four main programs: the Utah State Historical Society, Antiquities, Historic Preservation, and the Utah History Research Center. We help groups and individuals all over the state, and there's a good chance that we can help you.

Do you want to learn more about Utah history?

Find a lot of articles and facts about Utah history at history.utah.gov.

Join the Utah State Historical Society and get the *Utah Historical Quarterly* and *Currents*. Or look for these publications on our web site—history.utah.gov.

Go to historyforkids.utah.gov to get help with Utah history schoolwork.

Search or browse more than 20,000 photos online at history.utah.gov.

Find a database of markers and monuments around the state at history.utah.gov.

To find out about archaeology in Utah and how to get involved in preserving it, see history.utah.gov.

Do you need to research some part of Utah history?

Find a wealth of books, manuscripts, photos, maps, and more at the Utah History Research Center at the Rio Grande Depot (300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City). Hours are 9:30–4:30 M–F; 9:00–1:00 Saturdays. 801/533-3535.

Search the Utah History Research Center catalog at historyresearch.utah.gov.

Search for information on a deceased person on our



Salt Lake City's Rio Grande Depot, home of State History, c. 1910.

Cemeteries and Burials database at history.utah.gov.

Find online death certificates at historyresearch.utah.gov.

Do you want to learn more about a historic building—or do you want to restore one?

Research your building in our files at the Rio Grande Depot. Call 801/533-3559.

Get help with a National Register nomination at 801/533-3559.

Get help with tax credits at 801/533-3562.

Is your organization looking for a grant?

Apply for a grant to do oral histories, further archaeology, or digitize cemetery records. 801/533-3537.

Do you have questions about federal and state laws addressing cultural resources?

Contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 801/533-3555 (archaeological resources) or 801/533-3561 (historic resources).

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT history.utah.gov.

WHERE'S THAT?



Identify the historic structure in the photo above (and under construction in 1909, right). You could win a copy of *Utah's Historic Architecture 1847 – 1940: A Guide*, by Thomas Carter and Peter Goss. Send your response (one guess per contestant) to Where's That, 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. Responses must be postmarked by October 15, 2006. A drawing will be held of the winners to determine who receives the book.

(Thanks to Tim White for sending this idea and photos!)

Answer to the last Where's That?

The historic structure shown in the Winter 2006 Where's That? is the historic Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Assumption, located at 61 S. Second East in Price. Built by early Carbon County Greek immigrants, the church was dedicated on August 15, 1916.

The following people correctly identified the building: Marietta Glauser, Bountiful; Helen Segura, Diane Jenkins, Janet Patterick, and Paul Dupin, Price; Clark Sonzini, Farmington; Sylvia Nelson, Huntington; Margery Bitter and J. Craig Smith, Salt Lake City. Helen Segura was selected in the drawing to receive the book.



“I Remain Optimistic”

Historian Brigham D. Madsen has *lived* a lot of history. Here he shares his thoughts on life, the past, and the future.

About ten years ago I was privileged to give the commencement address at Rowland Hall - St. Mark's School. I find that my philosophy hasn't changed much since that time, and the most important things I said that day still hold true:

There are certain qualities and attributes which, if observed and practiced, may grant you the success that you desire and deserve. First, don't take yourself too seriously, because if you do you will soon discover that other people don't. A sense of humor is nothing more than a sense of proportion, and the mountain of yesterday quite often becomes the molehill of today.

Preserve your good reputation, which is of more value than the traditional diamonds and rubies. Family pride and tradition will provide important support to you in this endeavor. What is worth doing at all is worth doing well. Don't be afraid to tackle a new task and remember that a seemingly insurmountable mountain can be climbed one step at a time.

Perhaps the greatest thing you have going for you is that you live in a land of freedom. Democracy is not easily or rapidly learned. Furthermore, it is an untidy process. If you want a well-organized, absolutely disciplined society, choose a dictatorship.

Not only is our nation a land of economic opportunity where an individual can rise in social and financial status but, more importantly, ours is a land where the dignity and the freedom of the individual are more valuable than the prestige and power of the state. The assertion of the great revolutionary leader Thomas Paine is still true: "The cause of America is the most honorable that man has ever engaged in."

As you look forward to college careers or other training, concentrate on learning to speak and write the English language. It is the chief means by which you will succeed or fail in whatever profession you choose to follow. Through a long life, I have had experience as a soldier in World War II, as a building contractor, as a government official in Washington, D.C., and as a university administrator and teacher, and I have found everywhere I served it has been necessary to write reports and give oral presentations. On the basis of how well I performed in these assignments, I have been advanced in my fields of endeavor. I will never know the



opportunities that were denied me for my failures.

Now, in choosing your vocation or profession, choose one that is a challenge, one that is interesting as well as rewarding. One that you can look forward to on Monday morning. I now give you Madsen's Law: If

“...explore this great universe and your potential for service in it.”

you have chosen wisely, and the job is so much fun that you would do it for nothing while, nevertheless, accepting your richly deserved stipend, then your life will be a real adventure. Certainly, all of you must be concerned with gaining financial security, but to do so at the expense of opportunities to explore this great universe and your potential for service in it would be a denial of your role as a creative individual.

I signed this address “Brigham D. Madsen, Professor of History.” This identification was not just a mention of my profession but also a personal statement. I profess history as some profess a personal faith or a love. It has been the means of giving me tools for understanding my world and also for understanding my own experience.

During my more than 90 years, I have been an observer and participant in many changes. Born in the year when World

War I started, I have lived through the social revolution of the Roaring Twenties. I grew up with the automobile and the airplane, learned the joys of listening to the radio on our Atwater-Kent, suffered through the Great Depression, watched the privations of the mountain people of East Tennessee during those harsh times, and rejoiced with the new conditions ushered in by FDR's New Deal.

I watched the coming of World War II from our position of isolationism, served in the military during that war, shuddered with the rest of the world at the detonation of the atom and hydrogen bombs, learned to enjoy the news and documentaries on the newfangled television, watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon, went through the wrenching social revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, observed the problems and confrontations that resulted from the rise of the Third World, applauded the march of Civil Rights after Brown v. Board of Education, and joined in Martin Luther King's March on Washington.

I marvel at the telecommunication wonders and continue to worry with the rest of the nation about the grave crisis in the Middle East with the war in Iraq and the volatility of the area, and—finally—deplore the threat of global warming and the advance of desertification.

Despite the threat of a growing and devastating hunger throughout the world and the fear of a nuclear holocaust, I remain optimistic for my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The lessons of history teach us that there have always been calamities and problems facing humankind but that people are very resilient, determined to maintain life and pursue happiness in the face of troubles, no matter how great.

I have had a full life and regret only that I can't live another 90 years to observe the great changes that will inevitably take place. As a builder and a teacher, I have been able to observe my fellow human beings from two different perspectives and have found the panorama to be instructive, interesting, and very worthwhile. Life has been a great adventure.

Dr. Brigham D. Madsen is a Fellow of the Utah State Historical Society and author of numerous books, including *The Shoshoni Frontier* and *the Bear River Massacre*; *Exploring the Great Salt Lake: The Stansbury Expedition of 1849-50*; and *Against the Grain: Memoirs of a Western Historian*.

WHO'S THAT?

The man on the cover is Raymond Franklin Crow.

You won't have heard his name before, of course. Crow is one of the many virtually anonymous heroes of Utah history. When he died on the battlefield, the newspapers mentioned the “brave manner in which he faced death for his country.”

The paper also printed an account of when, “Proudly, yet with tear-dimmed eyes,” his

mother “stitched the first gold star on the field of snowy white satin of the War Mothers' State Service flag.”

Crow's body was brought home in 1921 and buried in the Salt Lake Cemetery. Thirty years later, his parents were buried beside him.

Photo: World War I recruits from Utah training at Camp Lewis in Washington.

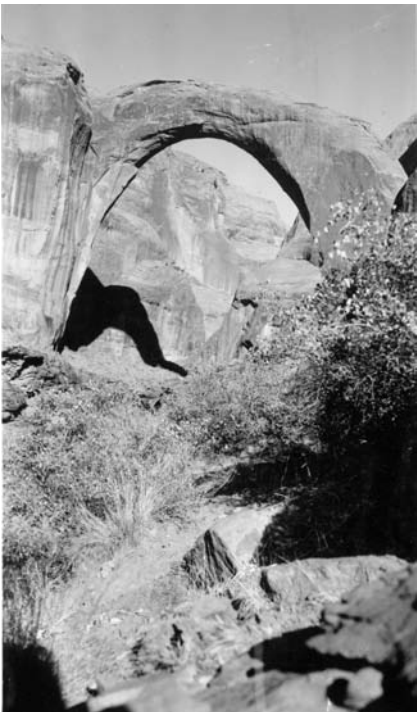




Above: Members of the expedition after landing at Lee's Ferry. L to R: Charles Kelly, Frank Swain, George Stone, Dr. A. L. Inglesby, Bill Chryst, Julius Stone, and Dr. Russell G. Frazier. The expedition began at Hite and ended at Lee's Ferry.



Clockwise from left:
Charles Kelly, William Chryst, Julius F. Stone, Frank Swain, Russell Frazier, and George Stone camped at Hite in preparation for "takeoff" in 1938.
Rainbow Bridge in Southern Utah was a popular destination on the early expeditions—as it is today.
George Stone and Russell Frazier on top of Rainbow Bridge, with the Explorer's Club flag. (Don't try this today!)
Julius F. Stone and Russell Frazier on the summit of Boulder Mountain with the Explorer's Club flag.
Swimming a horse across the river at Hite to search for Spanish inscriptions.



IN SEARCH of the PADRES — OR, THE \$5,000 POT of COFFEE

The Colorado River has long been a source of fascination. Native Americans, explorers, missionaries, archaeologists, and historians have all left their marks on the river—and vice versa.

Two such explorers, Charles Kelly and Russell Frazier, were interested in finding the site of the “Crossing of the Fathers.” As they read Father Escalante’s journals, they became convinced that the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776 crossed the river at what is now known as Padre Creek, not at the supposed site by Kane Creek. In 1938 Kelly and Frazier joined forces with Julius F. Stone to place a plaque at the correct spot.

Stone was not new to the river. He had actually funded Robert Brewster Stanton’s gold mining claims on the Colorado. “Stanton’s Dredge” was a complete failure and Stone lost all his investment, but he fell in love with the river and the Colorado Plateau.

The Glen Canyon trip in Fall 1938 included Stone, Kelly, Frazier, Julius’s son George, William Chryst, boatman Frank Swain, and Dr. A.L. Inglesby. Stone was 83 years old, and the crew tried to make him comfortable by installing an easy chair in his boat.

The trip evoked memories for Julius. When the group entered Glen Canyon, Stone reminisced about meeting Cass Hite in 1898 and again in 1909, when he ran the Colorado River just for the love of it. They passed Camp Stone, Stanton’s headquarters during his mining venture. They stopped at the wreckage of the Stanton Dredge and built a fire from the wood to make coffee; Stone jokingly estimated that this pot of coffee had cost him about \$5,000.

At Cataract Canyon, Swain tried to motor up Dark Canyon Rapid to give Julius Stone one last good rapids run. The motor wasn’t strong enough to go far, but the waves and spray were enough to make Stone happy, remembering earlier river trips.

The group installed the plaque and also found a mysterious 1642 inscription and inscriptions from the 1871 Powell expedition. When they arrived at Lee’s Ferry, they discovered, to their delight, that they could see the remains of the Nellie Powell (John Wesley Powell’s boat).

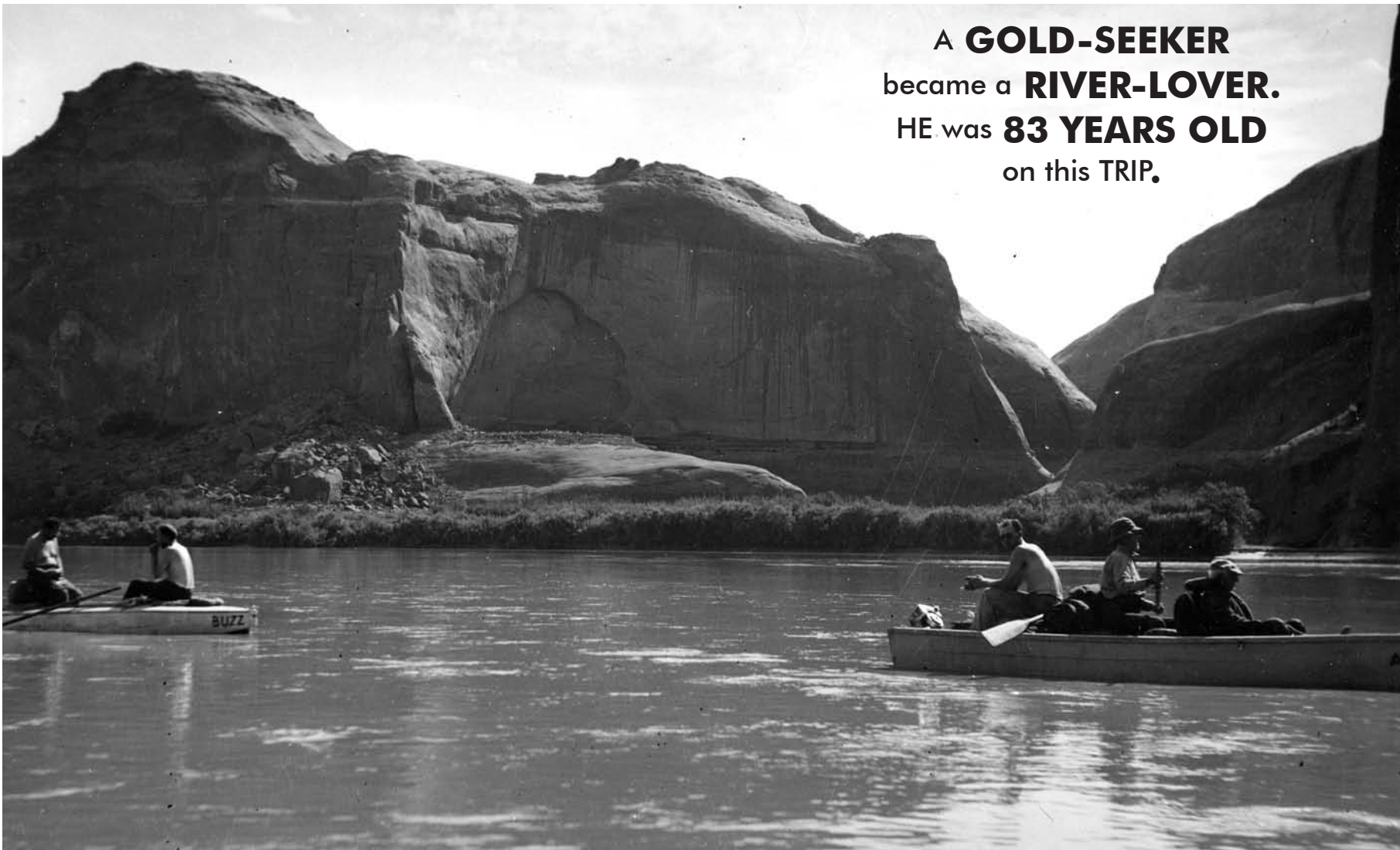
In all, the trip was successful—and the memories it created live on, partly, in these photographs.



Above: *The Hite Ferry, built in 1933 by Art Chaffin.*
 Below: *Wreckage of the Stanton Dredge (1898) in Glen Canyon near the mouth of Bullfrog Creek. The dredge was a remnant of the gold rush on the Colorado and San Juan Rivers. It cost \$100,000 to build but was sold in 1901—after only nine months in operation—for only \$1,100.*



Above: *George Stone, Russell Frazier, A. L. Inglesby, and Bill Chryst at Cass Hite's grave at Tickaboo.*
 Left: *The group erected this plaque at the mouth of Padre Creek to mark the site of the Crossing of the Fathers. The site is now under the waters of Lake Powell—as are most of the sites in these photos.*
 Below: *Bennett Water Wheel, Bennett's Bar.*
 Bottom: *The group drifting on the Colorado River in Glen Canyon.*



All of these photos are from the 1938 expedition, and are in State History's collections. They may be accessed at the Utah History Research Center at 300 S. Rio Grande Street, SLC. Text and captions by Susan Whetstone, State History photo curator.

NEWS AND NOTES



New W.A.V.E.S. recruits in 1944.

Teachers! WWII speaker available

State History announces the addition of volunteer speaker Mike Rose. Mike has an engaging World War II and Pearl Harbor talk that he loves presenting to students. Mike lived in Pearl Harbor and was three years old when the Japanese attacked. His father was actually at the harbor picking up a car the morning of the attack.

Mike tells a riveting story complete with real spies and real people before and after the attack. He shares artifacts from the event, such as “Hawaii bucks.” These were printed and issued by the U.S. government shortly after the attack. They look like normal currency but have “HAWAII” printed across the face. In the event of a later Japanese invasion and occupation, the U.S. government told other nations that this currency would not be honored on the world market.

Mike feels his presentations help students relate to what it was like to be a young person on the scene. He gives “more the human side of things...not just the facts and numbers students read in their schoolbooks.”

To schedule Mike Rose’s presentation for your students or for any event, please contact Bonnie Rogers, outreach programs specialist, at 801/533-3517 or brrogers@utah.gov.

Have your Utah Historical Quarterlies bound

About every two years, the Utah State Historical Society provides owners of the *Utah Historical Quarterly* the opportunity to have their individual volumes of the *Quarterly* bound. Craig Fuller, associate editor of the *Quarterly*, says that more recent issues will include the table of contents with the binding. The *Quarterlies* will be bound in the same traditional, rich Morocco Sturdite cloth fabric

that has been used for many, many years.

The binding cost per volume will be between \$15 and \$20, depending on the total number of volumes to be bound. For those living off the Wasatch Front, there will be the usual \$5 per volume mailing charge.

Those wishing to have their *Quarterlies* bound should mail or drop them off at the Utah State Historical Society, 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, by Friday, March 21, 2007. The newly bound volumes should be ready to be mailed or picked up by mid-June, says Fuller. For additional information about the binding of the *Quarterlies*, contact Craig Fuller, 801/533-3538 or cfuller@utah.gov.

Nominate a History Hero!

State History’s Annual Awards recognize individuals and groups who have made a significant contribution to history, prehistory, or historic preservation in the state of Utah. Whether these efforts on behalf of the past are quiet or prominent, they benefit the state’s citizens in tangible and intangible ways. We invite nominations of persons or organizations who have given extraordinary service or completed outstanding projects. Winners will be honored at the 55th Annual Utah State History Conference on September 6, 2007 in Salt Lake City.

You may make nominations in these categories:

Outstanding Contribution Award: For outstanding, long-term contribution to archaeology, preservation, or history in Utah. The award may be given to groups or individuals.

Outstanding Achievement Award: For an outstanding project or activity in the field of Utah archaeology, preservation, or history, or in support of one of Utah’s heritage organizations. May include research, preservation, education, fundraising, community programs, volunteerism, journalism, or other activities.

Nominations are due by April 6, 2007. You can find a nomination form at history.utah.gov, or call Alycia Aldrich at 801/533-3556 for more information.

The latest Utah Historical Quarterly

This spring the *Utah Historical Quarterly* will feature four articles:

1. “‘I am not and never have been a polygamist’: Reed Smoot’s Speech before the United States Senate, February 19, 1907,” by

Michael Harold Paulos. Paulos follows Smoot’s fight to hold his seat in the Senate.

2. “The Baron Woolen Mills: A Utah Legend,” by Rebecca Anderson. Anderson describes how the Baron Woolen Mills of Brigham City survived three fires, bankruptcies, and the Great Depression.

3. “The Beginnings of the *Journal of Discourses*: A Confrontation between George D. Watt and Willard Richards,” by Ronald G. Watt. This article explores how a labor dispute between Watt and Richards led to the publication of the *Journal of Discourses*.

4. “Leo Haefeli, Utah’s Chameleon Journalist,” by Val Holley. Holley explores the life of a Swiss journalist living in Utah and his ever-changing views of the Mormon church.

Preservation Builds Communities: Utah Heritage Foundation conference

On April 26-28, the Utah Heritage Foundation will host its 2007 Utah Preservation conference: *Preservation Builds Communities*. Held at historic Fort Douglas, the conference will serve as a forum for preservationists, architects, community leaders, contractors, planners, realtors, appraisers, archaeologists, and anyone else interested in preservation.

Paul Goldberger, architectural critic from *The New Yorker*, and Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will address the conference. The event will also include awards for preservation projects, tours of historic buildings, educational sessions, and a reception.

For more information, see utahheritagefoundation.org or call 801/533-0858 ext. 101.

Helper: “True Western Town” of the year

True West magazine has named Helper, Utah, the #1 True Western Town of the year. This Carbon County town “has preserved its history through older buildings and districts, museums and other institutions, and events,” according to the Jan/Feb 2007 issue.

“When it comes to preserving and celebrating its heritage, the town of Helper helps itself,” says Bob Boze Bell, executive editor of *True West*. “Its Western Mining & Railroad Museum is a treasure — and a new facility is under construction this year. The local Historic Preservation Commission was reorganized last year in an effort to redouble efforts to save and maintain older buildings. The community is incredibly

involved in these projects—and in getting the word out about Helper. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Helper richly deserves the honor of 2007 True Western Town.”

State History staff has worked for many years with the citizens of Helper, who are passionate about their history, and we can attest to their commitment to making history a vital part of the present. Congratulations, Helper.

True West magazine publishes “true stories of Old West adventure, history, culture and preservation.”

Death certificates now online

Need a death certificate for someone who died in Utah between 1905 and 1954? The Utah History Research Center web site now has a searchable database of death certificates, which means that the names of Utah’s deceased are now very much alive, searchable, and viewable online for free.

Type in a name, and you will be directed to a brief summary of the person’s death certificate and a “thumbnail” of the certificate. Click on the thumbnail to see a larger, high-quality view of the original. You can print this out for your records.

A death certificate usually contains a great deal of information: the names and birthplaces of the deceased person’s parents; place and date of the decedent’s birth; marital status, occupation, and permanent residence; place and date of burial; time of death; chief cause and contributory factors of death; and if applicable, where the illness was contracted and how long it lasted.

To search for a death certificate, go to historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes.

55th Annual State History Conference: Call for papers

The 55th Annual State History Conference will be held September 6 and 7 at the Salt Lake Public Library. Proposals for individual papers or sessions relating to history, historic preservation, or prehistory should be submitted before June 1, 2007. Proposals should include a one-page description of the topic and its significance, any audio-visual needs, addresses and phone numbers, and a one- or two-paragraph bio of each participant.

Proposals can be mailed or e-mailed to Kent Powell, 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1182, or kpowell@utah.gov. For further information please call 801/533-3520.

A Rite of Spring: The Utah History Fair

The Utah History Fair, Utah's affiliate to National History Day, continues to benefit Utah's students in grades 4-12 with another promising History Fair season. Fueled by the theme "Triumph and Tragedy in History," participating students will compete in seven categories designed to accommodate the interests, strengths, and talents of each student: *Historical Paper*, *Individual Documentary*, *Group Documentary*, *Individual Performance*, *Group Performance*, *Individual Exhibit*, and *Group Exhibit*.

The Utah History Fair encourages students to explore an area of history that reflects their curiosity, locality, or heritage; students often research and present topics that reflect their personalities. In order to be competitive, each student must apply critical thinking, exceptional writing, creativity, and skills in historical research.

The Utah History Fair supplements school curriculum. Students and teachers must cross the lines between the sciences, history, and English. Winning projects and students must persevere through the scrutiny and constructive criticism of the History Fair judges.

Beginning on February 27, entrants will compete in their regions for a chance to go to the State History Fair on April 11 at Fort Douglas. After that, Utah's



Sarah Sawyer, Zachary Limb, Rachel Sawyer, and Cara Limb of Beaver High School with their award-winning exhibit, "The Price for Profit: Scofield Takes a Stand." This also won the Public Lands Interagency Task Force Award.

best young historians will be invited to participate in the National History Day competition, June 10-14, in Washington D.C. Every year, Utah's students finish among the top in the nation.

Nicholas Demas is serving as the assistant director of the Utah History Fair for the 2007 season. Sadly, longtime History Fair director Mike Johnson died in February after a long battle with cancer. Nicholas had the privilege of working as Mike's graduate assistant for two years, volunteering as a judge for him, and even participating and going to

State in the Group Performance category 14 years ago. Nicholas worked as Mike's graduate assistant the prior two years, has volunteered as a judge, and even participated and went to State in the Group Performance category 14 years ago.

The Utah History Fair is made possible by generous support from Utah State University and the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies, the Utah Humanities Council, and State History. Countless individuals from all areas of the state also offer time and money to help

ensure that Utah's students can participate in this quality competition.

Most of all, we owe Mike Johnson a great debt of gratitude for his 15-year commitment to providing a quality learning atmosphere for history and the humanities. Those of us who had the honor of working with him will miss him more than we can say.

HISTORY FAIR SCHEDULE, 2007

- Feb 27** Southeastern Fair: CEU Blanding
- Feb 28** Eastern Fair: CEU Price
- Mar 8** Southwestern Fair: Dixie State College
- Mar 9** Central Fair: Snow College
- Mar 15** Uintah Basin Fair: Roosevelt Middle School
- Mar 23** North Salt Lake Fair: Fort Douglas
- Mar 26** Utah Valley Fair: UVSC
- Mar 30** South Salt Lake Fair: Midvale Middle School
- Apr 3** Northern Fair: Utah State University
- Apr 11** State Fair: Ft. Douglas
- Jun 10-14** National History Day Competition: Washington D.C.

The public is welcome at all of these events. Students will perform and exhibit on these days between 9 a.m. and noon.

UTAH STATE HISTORY

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANTIQUITIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
RESEARCH CENTER & COLLECTIONS

- We help people to discover the past.
- We help preserve irreplaceable cultural resources.
- We seek to enhance Utahns' quality of life.
- We help broaden understanding among diverse groups.

history.utah.gov

Explore the past!

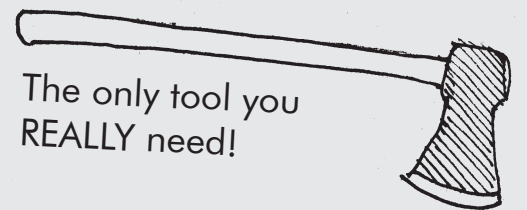
Continue to discover the past by joining the Utah State Historical Society. As a member, you will receive *Utah Historical Quarterly* and *History Currents* four times per year. You will also receive a 10 percent discount on State History publications and invitations to special events.

Basic membership is a bargain—but we welcome a higher level of support. Clip and mail this form to Membership, Utah State Historical Society, 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1182. Or call 801/533-3500 or visit history.utah.gov.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Seniors/students: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 |
| Individuals/institutions: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 |
| Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |
| Business/Centennial | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |

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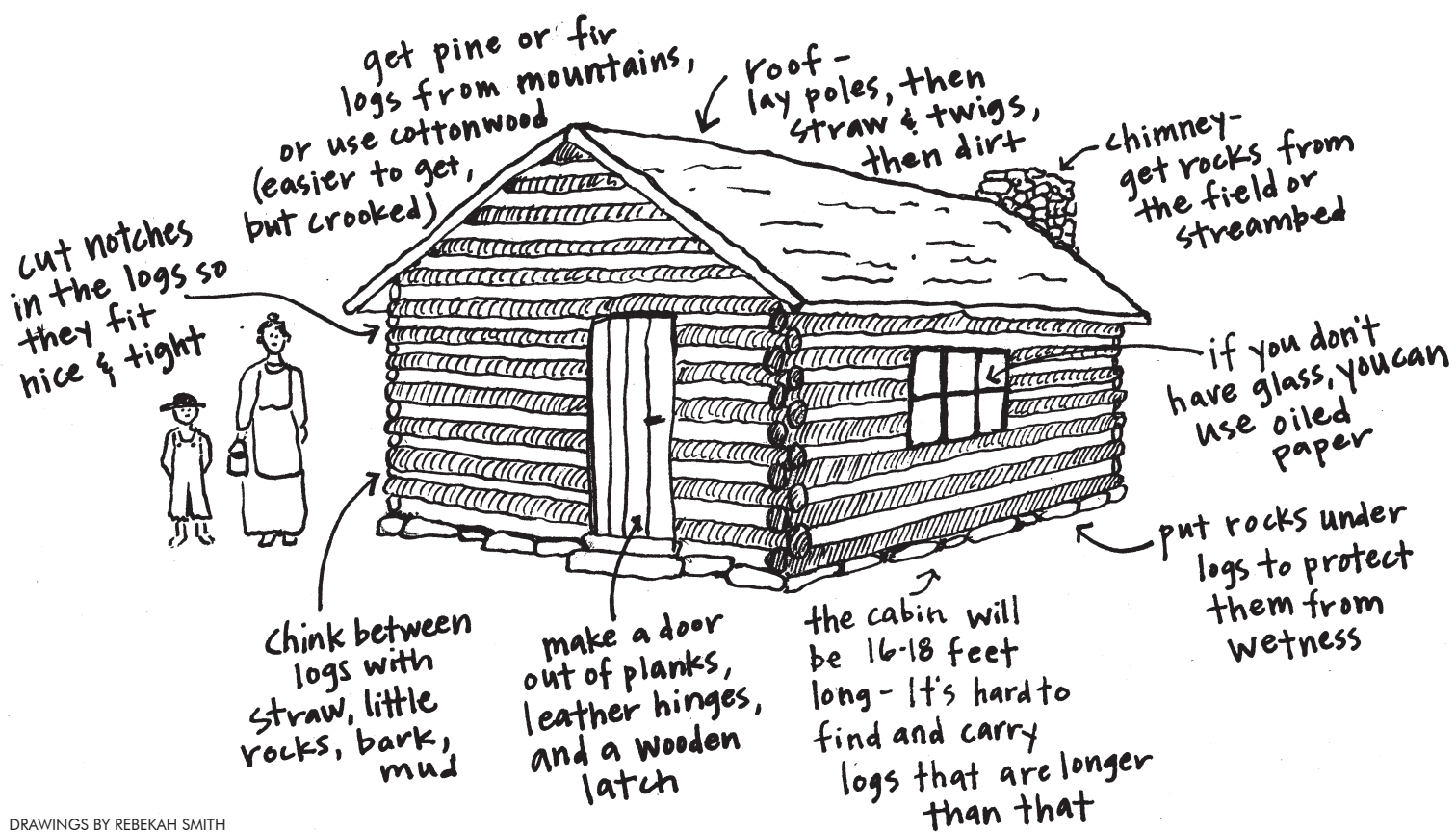
LIVING IN A LOG CABIN



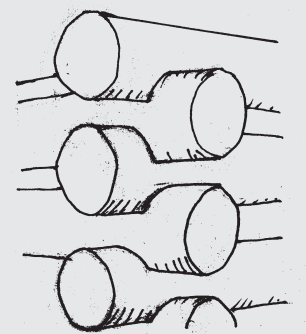
Imagine that your family moved to a place where there were mountains, streams, and trees but no houses. What would you do? Well, first, you'd probably build a shelter. If your mom or dad had an ax and knew how to use it, your family could build a log cabin—using just a ax—in two or three weeks. Your new house wouldn't be too fancy, but it would be warm and dry—at least, whenever it wasn't raining! Many early cabins had dirt roofs, and they sometimes leaked.

Look at the pictures below and think about what you could do to help your family build and furnish the cabin.

When Anglo American settlers first came to Utah, the first house many of them built was a log cabin. Later, if they could afford it, they would make the cabin bigger or just build a bigger house. But many families stayed in cabins. Sometimes families with lots of kids or lots of relatives would live in just one or two rooms.



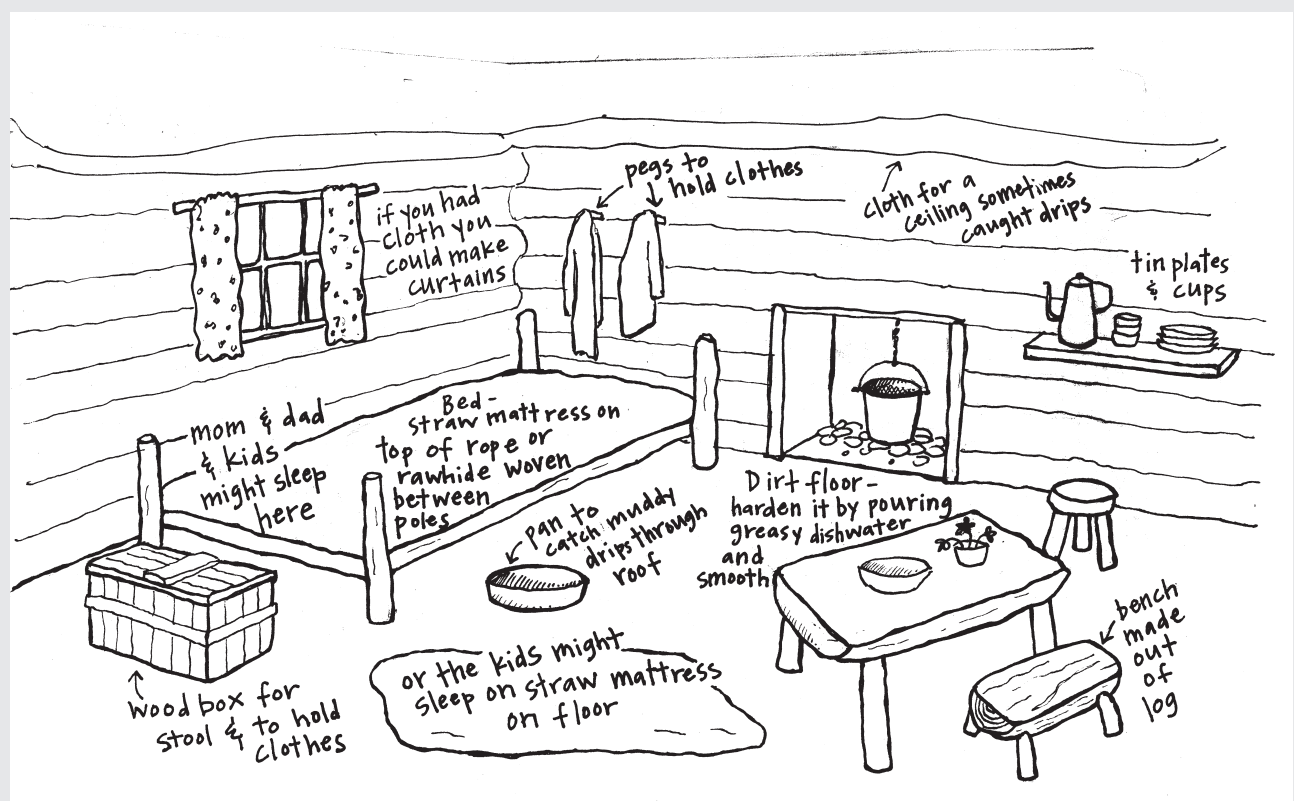
DRAWINGS BY REBEKAH SMITH



To fit the logs together, you need a notch. This is one of the easiest ones to make. It's called a "saddle notch."

If you lived in a log cabin, do you think you would have your own room? Where would you do the dishes? What would you do for fun?

Mary Jane Tanner wrote about her life in a cabin, so that her children could "see how little is really necessary for happiness." With benches, shelves, curtains, and a small looking glass (or mirror), her cabin looked "clean and cheerful.... And I think I passed the happiest hours of my life in that old log cabin."



JUMP in

HANDS-ON HISTORY FOR KIDS AND OTHER ADVENTURERS

Of Mice and Manuscripts: An Adventure

by Melissa Coy Ferguson

Most people who conduct their research at the Utah History Research Center are probably unaware of the origins of a collection. The patron requests a manuscript collection by handing a call slip to a friendly reference librarian; the librarian disappears for several minutes, then returns with a gray, acid-free box. Each folder sits nicely inside the box, clean and labeled. It would be easy to take this tidy box for granted, without ever knowing where the collection came from or what it looked like before it was processed. And it would be easy to think that archivists and curators have safe and uneventful lives.

Don't be fooled. A curator's job can be downright...terrifying.

Last October, I traveled with Linda Thatcher, State History's collections management coordinator, to Hiawatha to pick up the last boxes of a collection we had begun to acquire ten years ago. Hiawatha is a ghost town just outside of Price, Utah. Created by the United States Fuel Company as a mining town in 1917, Hiawatha boomed during the 1940s and 1950s. It continued to flourish until the coal industry tanked in the 1980s. In 1991 U.S. Fuel laid off the last of its workers. The company left behind a collection that includes accounting records, operation reports, correspondence, and employee files.

We had already processed part of the collection into 49 boxes, but by the time the rest of it is processed it will include more than 100 boxes. Most of the remaining papers were housed in the basement of an old building in Hiawatha, with minimal lighting and a narrow staircase with no railings. Based on these conditions, we decided to hire movers to help us take the rest of the collection to Salt Lake City.

We arrived in Hiawatha on a drizzly, cold day. Clouds lingering over the hillsides created an eerily beautiful scene. A separate, outside entrance led to the basement of the building. Because the few small windows in the basement let in little of the already-minimal sun-



Above: The town of Hiawatha today is sparsely populated.

At right: The creaky old stairs that led to the basement. It was at the bottom of these stairs where the mouse had given up the ghost.

Some of the documents were simply lying on the floor, exposed to puddles, insects and small rodents. We scooped these up and put them in several boxes.

Below: Water leaks in the basement had damaged many of the documents.

It would be easy to think that archivists & curators have safe, uneventful lives.

light, Linda and I groped our way down the stairs in darkness. Once at the bottom of the stairs, we searched everywhere for a light switch. I found one in the farthest room, but we needed more light. Linda spotted a hole in one of the bookshelves and suggested that the light switch might be through that hole. She urged me to put my hand in the hole to check.

"Sure, make ME put my hand in the hole!" I joked. Sure enough, the switch was there. Much to our horror, the light revealed more than boxes in that room.

A dead mouse lay sprawled at the bottom of the stairs. How we missed stepping on it as we walked down the stairs in the

dark, I don't know. Various insects were either dead or dying in, on, and around the boxes. By then, one of the movers had joined us downstairs, and he lifted a big box from the top shelf so we could see if it held any historically significant documents. But when he told us there was a dead rat inside, we decided to pass without looking. As he placed the box back on the shelf, he lost his grip and the box fell open on the floor, revealing the carcass of the large rat. Linda and I screamed as if the mover had dropped a coffin and a corpse had fallen out. The mover shoved the box back, grabbed another box, and hauled it up the stairs, leaving us alone to shiver in our crawling skin. Then we heard a mouse squeak—which made Linda scream, which in turn made me scream. As we stood there frozen in fear, screaming hysterically, we looked over and noticed that the mover had returned, standing in the doorway, staring at us in amazement. We are pretty sure that he later told his buddies back at the work lunchroom about



"those two crazy ladies."

In short, we survived our ordeal. The documents are filthy with coal dust and dirt but, fortunately, insect- and critter-free. When we process the collection, the documents will be clean and safe in their acid-free folders and boxes, and the researcher will never know the horrors we faced in order to get them. But next time you order a collection from a reference librarian, think of our tale, and think of librarians and curators as your heroes.

Melissa Coy Ferguson is the manuscripts curator for State History.

Arbor Day Thoughts—from 150 years ago.



"Let every street and sidewalk be lined with shade trees, throughout our city; and if the cattle do rub down some of them, and your neighbors and friends take the liberty to tie their horses to them because they are too lazy or too ungentlemanly to go one or five rods to a stake...never mind, you will save some of them...their shadows will make your souls thankful a year or two hence.... Cottonwood is better than quakingasp." *Deseret News*, March 3, 1852.

